

## **A Survey of Spring Migration at Lake Havasu with an Emphasis on Waterbirds**

Vander Pluym, David

2841 McCulloch Blvc N. #1, Lake Havasu City, Az, 86403

[scre@aol.com](mailto:scre@aol.com)

The development of reservoirs along the Colorado River has changed the ecology of the region and offered habitat for many species of aquatic birds where none existed historically. Aquatic bird surveys were done to look at use of the location as a stopover site and to gain an understanding of what species may now use the area regularly in migration. I conducted surveys at the north end of Lake Havasu between mid March and mid May 2014. The main focus was on aquatic bird migration, however landbirds were also counted. An attempt was made to use sound recording equipment to detect nocturnal migration. This was done to see how effective this type of survey method would be, with negative results. A total of 41292 individual representing 59 species of landbirds and a total of 42519 individuals representing 57 species of waterbirds were detected, excluding likely resident and breeding species, but including some likely wintering birds. Several aquatic species formerly considered rare were found regularly during the survey period and in recent years or were found in higher numbers than previously recorded, such as Common Loon, Eared Grebe, Red-necked Phalarope, and Bonaparte's and Franklin's gulls. This information can be used to judge future changes in aquatic bird use of reservoirs along the Colorado River.